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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Bryan Franz Dufner et al

Examiner: Lois L. Zheng

Serial No.: 10/075,561

Art Unit: 1742

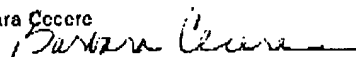
Filed: February 13, 2002

Docket No.: C-2199Re

Title: ELECTROCHEMICAL CELL WITH A
POROUS SUPPORT PLATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark
Office (Fax No. 571 273 8300) on March 23, 2006.

Barbara Cecere



Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2006.

3,4. Claims 1-14 are rejected as anticipated by Taniguchi.

Paragraph c. of claims 1 and 8 specifies a two-element porous support plate having (1) a contact bi-layer (2) supported on a porous substrate layer. Taniguchi has only one porous layer (40, 41).

Paragraph c. of claims 1 and 8 also specifies that the bi-layer include "hydrophilic phase means"...or "mixture"...for increasing the capacitance of the cell." Taniguchi does not disclose increasing the capacitance of the cell; Taniguchi therefore does not disclose the claimed bi-layer. "TO ANTICIPATE A CLAIM, THE REFERENCE MUST TEACH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM." MPEP 2131. Taniguchi does not disclose (a) the capacitance-increasing bi-layer nor (b) its support layer, and therefore does not anticipate claim 1. The increasing of fuel cell capacitance by means of a processed bi-layer is disclosed herein at column 10, lines 31-45. The functional value of increased capacitance is disclosed at column 10, lines 45-53. These are "structural attributes of interrelated component parts" which cannot be ignored (MPEP 2173.05(g)).